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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 30 March-10 April 1992

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General of the
World Conference on Human Rights

These annotations to the provisional agenda of the Preparatory Committee at its second session have been prepared by the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights and are circulated as an official document in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/155 and 46/116. Their purpose is to bring to the attention of the Preparatory Committee at its second session those paragraphs of General Assembly resolutions 45/155 and 46/116 which are considered relevant to the agenda items of this session of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The second session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights will be opened by the Secretary-General of the World Conference, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. The session is scheduled to be held from 30 March to 10 April 1992. It may be recalled that at its forty-sixth session the General Assembly had decided that the Preparatory Committee would meet for three further sessions at Geneva and that the next session would last two weeks.

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Item 2. Election of officers and adoption of rules of procedure

2. It may be recalled that the Preparatory Committee at its first session adopted, as its own rules of procedure, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

3. In accordance with these rules the Preparatory Committee is called upon to elect a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

4. The provisional agenda has been drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Conference based on the decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions and is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/14.

Item 4. Organization of work

5. A provisional programme of work (A/CONF.157/PC/15) has been drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Conference taking into account the time available. It may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 46/116, decided that no more than two meetings should take place simultaneously during the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and that no inter-sessional working group should be established.

6. Taking the provisional agenda into account, the Committee may wish to set up two working groups of the whole to address specific agenda items. The two groups may meet simultaneously if necessary.

7. In view of the limited time available to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, the Committee may wish to establish time-limits on the length and/or number of statements made at the meeting. The Committee may also wish to encourage participants to make joint statements, to the extent possible, as well as statements addressed to more than one item of the agenda.

Item 5. Provisional agenda for the World Conference and related documentation

8. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 I (a) of General Assembly resolution 46/116 in which the Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee at its second session should take up the provisional agenda for the World Conference and the documentation related thereto. The Assembly also decided that the elaboration of the provisional agenda for the World Conference should be based on paragraph 1 of resolution 45/155. In that regard, the Committee may wish to consider the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights contained in the annex to resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991. The Committee has before it document A/CONF.157/PC/16 containing the draft provisional agenda for the World Conference.

Item 6. Draft rules of procedure for the World Conference

9. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 I (b) of General Assembly resolution 46/116 in which the Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee at its second session should take up the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference. In that regard, the Preparatory Committee may also wish to bear in mind paragraph 10 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 in which the Commission recommended that the Preparatory Committee prepare the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for United Nations conferences. In this connection, the Preparatory Committee has before it document A/CONF.157/PC/8 containing the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference.

Item 7. Dates and venue of the World Conference

10. The Preparatory Committee is called upon to adopt a recommendation concerning the dates and venue of the World Conference. In this connection the attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to document A/CONF.157/PC/28 containing a letter dated 12 February 1992 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Item 8. Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on public information activities relating to the World Conference and the preparatory process

11. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 I (d) in which the Assembly decided that the Secretary-General should give the Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations system.

12. The Preparatory Committee at its second session will thus have before it document A/CONF.157/PC/17 containing a comprehensive report on public information activities relating to the World Conference and the preparatory process.

Item 9. Participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the preparatory meetings and at the Conference itself

13. It may be recalled that, further to General Assembly resolution 45/155 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30, a voluntary fund had been established to meet the costs of participation by representatives of the least developed countries in the preparatory process and the World Conference itself. A number of contributions to the fund have been received.

14. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 III of General Assembly resolution 46/116 in which the Assembly reiterated its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the

preparatory meetings, including regional meetings, and the World Conference itself, and requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in that regard. The Preparatory Committee has before it document A/CONF.157/PC/18 on the status of the voluntary fund.

Item 10. Regional meetings

15. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 IV of General Assembly resolution 46/116 in which the Assembly decided that, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/155, regional meetings should be convened for each region that so desired within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions, and that those meetings should be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference, as recommended for consideration by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 8 of the annex to its resolution 1991/30.

16. The Secretary-General of the Conference has been notified of the desire of the Latin American and Caribbean Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at San José from 6 to 10 July 1992, of the Asian Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok from 17 to 21 August 1992 and of the African Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992. The Preparatory Committee has before it document A/CONF.157/PC/19 regarding the status of preparation of these regional preparatory meetings.

Item 11. Report on studies and documentation for the World Conference

17. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 V (a)-(e) of General Assembly resolution 46/116 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare the following documentation as soon as possible and to report to the Preparatory Committee on the progress made on: (a) a limited number of short, analytical and action-oriented studies on issues referred to in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 45/155, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30 and, in particular, paragraph 2 of the annex thereto, and also bearing in mind documentation prepared for and statements made at the first session of the Preparatory Committee; (b) reports of meetings organized under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155; (c) a reference guide to all United Nations studies and reports on human rights or related aspects; (d) an update of the publication United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights; and (e) an update of the publications Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments. The progress report with respect to paragraph 4 V (a) of General Assembly resolution 46/116 is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/20; the progress report with respect to paragraph 4 V (b)-(e) of General Assembly resolution 46/116 is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/21.

Item 12. Organization of future sessions of the Preparatory Committee

18. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 II of General Assembly resolution 46/116 in which the Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee should meet for two sessions in 1992 and one session in 1993, each session to last one to two weeks each, if that was agreed to be necessary. The Preparatory Committee may wish to take up the question of its future sessions, including the duration of its third session.

Item 13. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

19. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 46/116, the Preparatory Committee will adopt a report on the progress of its work for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.